

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03396 111448Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8031

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF, WA

SUBJECT: WESTERN FIVE COMMUNICATION TO SOUTH AFRICA ON
APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL FOR NAMIBIA

REF: (A) USUN 2167; (B) USUN 2133; (C) PRETORIA 3312;
KD) PRETORIA 3341

1. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DELIVER TO FONMIN BOTHA LAST FRIDAY
THE FIVE-POWER COMMUNICATION ON THE SAG APPOINTMENT OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL, AS DESIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND USUN.
BY THE TIME THE LOCAL COORDINATION WITH THE OTHER FOUR EMBASSIES
WAS COMPLETED, BOTHA WAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE AND ASKED THAT THE
APPOINTMENT BE PUT OFF UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 11, SINCE HE WOULD
BE OUT OF TOWN OVER THE WEEKEND.

2. THIS MORNING AT 1130 A.M. I CALLED ON BOTHA AT HIS OFFICE
TO DELIVER THE COMMUNICATION IN THE FORM OF AN AIDE MEMOIRE.
HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS ONE OF "SURPRISE OVER OUR SURPRISE"
IN THE WAY THE SAG HANDLED THE ANNOUNCEMENT. BOTHA SAID THERE
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WAS NO INTENTION TO GO AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF THE CAPE TOWN
TALKS. THE PERSON SELECTED WAS IN KEEPING WITH THEIR DES-
CRPTION OF THE CANDIDATE THEY WOULD BE LOOKING FOR: I.E.,
SOMEONE FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH WHO WOULD BE APOLITICAL,
IMPARTIAL, AND WITHOUT PREVIOUS SWA CONNECTIONS. JUDGE STEYN
MET ALL THESE REQUIREMENTS. THE SAG HAD INDICATED TO THE CG
THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL WOULD NOT BE ON THE JOB UNTIL

EARLY AUGUST AND THIS IS STILL THE CASE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAD TO COME EARLIER BECAUSE (A) THE PRESSURE TO NAME SOMEONE WAS BECOMING INTENSE, AND (B) THE PRESENT COMMISSIONER-GENERAL HAD TO BE TOLD THAT HIS SERVICES WERE NO LONGER NEEDED.

3. I TOLD BOTHA THAT JUST AS THE SAG HAD CONSULTED THE CG ON THE ENABLING ACT BEFORE PRESENTATION TO THE PARLIAMENT, WE HAD THOUGHT THAT THE SAG WOULD TOUCH BASE WITH THE CG BEFORE MAKING A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. I NOTED THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT SUCH AS THIS HAS AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE CONSULTATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE CG AND SHOULD BE COORDINATED. BOTHA CONCEDED THIS POINT BUT REITERATED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO GO AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF CAPE TOWN.

4. LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE, I REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS ATTACH TO COORDINATION OF THE TIMING OF THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL ENTERING OFFICE AND PRIOR DISCUSSION ON HIS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE THESE ARE PROMULGATED. BOTHA RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY ACTION ON EITHER ASPECT UNTIL THE WEEK OF AUGUST 7-14. AS LONG AS WHAT IS DESIRED IS SYNCHRONIZATION AND COORDINATION, HE ANTICIPATED NO PROBLEM ALTHOUGH THIS IS A MATTER HE WOULD WISH TO TAKE UP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER. UNDERSCORING OUR DESIRE TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE CURRENT EFFORT IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME, CONFIDENTIAL

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I ASKED THAT THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS BE INFORMED OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT. BOTHA NODDED ASSENT.
BOWDLER

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